

REMARKS

Before addressing the rejections to the claims, Applicant notes the following. The Examiner states in the Office Action that the drawings sent to the Office on March 29, 2001 were never received. The Examiner also objected to the title of the invention, and to claims 13-19, 21-23, 25, 30-36, and 38-40 for several informalities and issues regarding clarity. To address these issues, Applicant resubmits the set of informal drawings having corrected margins, and amends the title as noted above. Applicant also amends the above-mentioned claims to address the Examiner's noted concerns. No new matter has been added. In light of the resubmitted drawings and amendments, Applicant requests the Examiner withdraw the objections. Applicant also respectfully requests the Examiner hold the requirement for formal drawings in abeyance until a Notice of Allowance is issued.

Turning now to the claims rejections, the present invention relates to a communications device having speech recognition capability. With speech recognition, a user speaks a "label" (e.g., "Irvin") into a microphone on a communications device. A digitized pattern representative of the label is then compared to one or more voice patterns stored in memory of the device. The speech recognition circuit compares the digitized pattern to each of the stored patterns and produces a confidence measure that indicates how closely they match. However, ambiguities can arise when the spoken label is similar to two or more stored voice patterns (e.g., "Irvin" and Mervin"). In these cases, the confidence measures may very close in value resulting in the possible selection of an incorrect entry.

In one embodiment of the present invention, the mobile communications device compares the confidence measurements of the two highest voice matches. If a difference between the two is greater than or equal to some threshold, the mobile device dials the number associated with the greatest confidence measurement. If the difference does not exceed the threshold, the device determines its current geographical position (e.g., geographical

coordinates), and uses its position to adjust each of the confidence measurements. The entry with the new greatest confidence measurement (modified according to the device's current geographical position) is then selected and the associated number is dialed.

The Examiner rejected claim 42 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Bielby, and under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Lenning. Claim 42 has been amended such that it is now directed to a mobile communications device. Further, amended claim 42 now also recites that the mobile communications device determines its current geographical position, adjusts each of the confidence measurements based on its current geographical position.

Bielby discloses a directory assistance system that resides in a communications network. A user speaks a locality (i.e., "Alexandria") into a phone, and the system makes a first pass to produce the 30 most likely matches. The system then makes a second pass on these 30 matches to determine a few most likely matches. Bielby discloses that the system uses the caller's NPA-NXX during the second pass to estimate which of the 30 matches is the most likely. However, the NPA-NXX of a caller says nothing about the current geographical position of the phone of the user in Bielby. It indicates nothing more than the calling area the user is calling from. Bielby does not teach a mobile communications device, and fails to teach a mobile communications device that can determine and use its current geographical position to alter its own confidence measurements.

Lenning also discloses a directory assistance center in a communications network that uses the calling party's phone number (i.e, NPA-NXX) to determine a probability index as to which location a user is trying to call. As stated above, the NPA-NXX provides only indicates a calling area from where the user calls. It does not provide the current geographical position of a mobile device. According to Lenning, "[t]he originating locality o from which the directory assistance call originates is not known precisely." *Lenning*, col. 7, ln. 67 – col. 8, ln. 2. Lenning does disclose latitude and longitude. However, a mobile device does not determine these coordinates. Instead, they appear to be pre-loaded into the system. Moreover, these

coordinates are never used to define a current geographical position of the mobile device. Rather, the system uses them to determine distance between two localities (i.e., calling areas). See *Lenning*, table in column 9. See also, *Lenning*, col 8., ll. 37-39. Therefore, *Lenning* also fails to anticipate claim 42.

The Examiner also rejected claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by the patent to *Lenning*. However, claim 1 has been amended to recite language similar to that of amended claim 42. For the reasons stated above, fails to anticipate claim 1.

The Examiner further rejected claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Emery '057* in view of *Lenning*. *Emery '057* discloses a mobile device. A directory assistance system in the network of *Emery '057* (i.e., a switching system) provides a speech recognition system that permits a caller to speak the name of a city or locality (e.g., "Alexandria"). The directory assistance system of *Emery '057* uses this spoken location to determine the calling area in which the called party lives. *Emery '057*, col. 15, ll. 24-62. *Emery '057* does not teach or suggest altering confidence measurements provided by the speech recognition circuit in a mobile communications device based on the spoken location. Further, for the reasons stated above with respect to claim 42, *Lenning* also fails to teach or suggest this element. As such, the §103 rejection of claim 1 necessarily fails.

In addition, combining *Emery '057* and *Lenning* provides nothing more than what *Lenning* already does. Specifically, *Emery '057* discloses a broad overview of a directory assistance system. *Emery '057*, col. 15, ll. 31-39. Any location provided by the caller in *Emery '057* is simply used by the directory assistance system to determine the area in which the called party lives. *Lenning* discloses a system that already provides this same functionality. Accordingly, neither *Emery '057* nor *Lenning* teach or suggest, alone or in combination, claim 1.

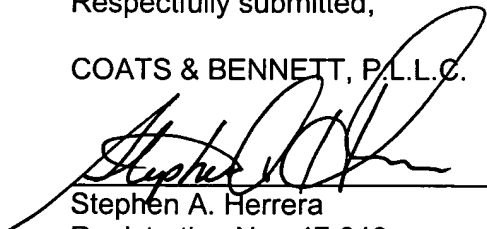
Next, the Examiner rejected claim 25 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Rahrer in view of Emery '057 in further view of Lenning. Claim 25 has been amended to recite that the mobile communications device determines its current geographical position and adjusts each of the confidence measurements based on its current geographical position. For the reasons stated above, neither Emery '057 nor Lenning render claim 25 obvious either alone or in combination. Rahrer does nothing to correct this. Rahrer discloses a mobile device having speech recognition capabilities, but says nothing regarding modifying confidence measurements based on a current geographical position of the mobile device. Accordingly, none of Rahrer, Emery '057, or Lenning teaches or suggests, alone or in combination, claim 25.

Finally, the Examiner rejected claim 47 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Bielby, and under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Lenning. The Examiner also rejected claim 52 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Emery '057 in view of Lenning. Applicant has cancelled claims 47-52 without prejudice, thereby rendering these rejections moot.

In light of the remarks and amendments, Applicant respectfully requests the allowance of all pending claims 1-46.

Respectfully submitted,

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